

CASE OF AN UNUSUALLY ARTIFICIAL URBAN LOCATION FOR A BRACKET FUNGUS

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In September 2007, friends alerted me to an unusual location for a fungus, in an area of artificial grass on the balcony of a building in West Perth, close to the Central Business District in Perth, Western Australia. The GPS co-ordinates of the location are 31° 56' 59.6"S and 115° 50' 20.3"E.

I identified the fungus as *Pycnoporus coccineus*, the Scarlet Bracket Fungus, a common saprotrophic fungus found on dead wood. *Pycnoporus coccineus* is often found fruiting on pergolas, a common reason for the demise and disintegration of such outdoor wooden structures. Once the fruiting brackets of the



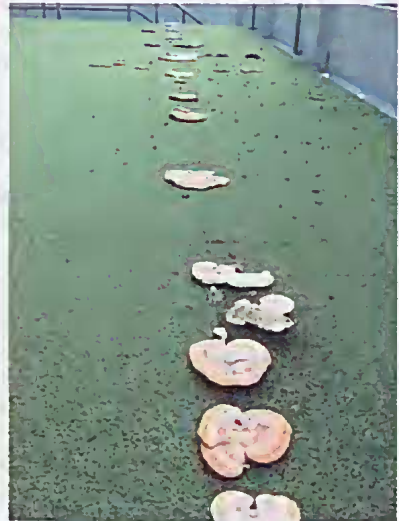
This fungus is not fruiting in grass but through artificial plastic grass, on a suspended roof above a below ground car park. There is wood underneath the artificial turf.



A series of fruiting bodies in an unusual straight formation



Close up of single fruiting body of the Scarlet Bracket Fungus, *Pycnoporus coccineus*



Another view of the unusual line of fruiting bodies.

fungus appear, the wood is severely compromised having been broken down by the mycelium of the fungus and won't support weight for much longer. This fungus occurs on all sorts of dead wood, in native forests, orchards as well as on sawed timber (wooden) products

such as fences and pergolas. It is common throughout Australia.

On closer inspection it was clear that although the balcony appeared to be made only of metal and concrete, there would

have to be some wood component to the balcony underneath the artificial turf, and the fungus, having grown in the wood, was fruiting mostly in a neat straight line and pushing its way up through the artificial turf on the balcony.

This is an interesting example of nature at work in a mostly artificial environment.

Although now looking a little worse for wear, the fruiting bodies were still there in April 2009, showing just how long lasting these fruiting bodies can be.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCE

BOUGHER N.L. and SYME K. 1998. *Fungi of Southern Australia*. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, Western Australia. Pp. 330–331.